

CLAIMS

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A method of displaying magnified or reduced areas of a diagram, comprising the steps of:

storing diagram linkage information as to how other portions of a diagram are affected when a certain portion of a diagram is magnified or reduced;

magnifying or reducing the certain portion of the diagram with a designated magnification or reduction ratio;

magnifying/reducing the other portions of the diagram other than the magnified or reduced portion of the diagram in accordance with the diagram linkage information;

obtaining display specification information characterizing the magnification or reduction ratio of each portion of the diagram; and

displaying each portion of the diagram based on the display specification information characterizing each portion magnification or reduction ratio so that the portions of the diagram are characterized differently depending on their magnification or reduction ratio in the display.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of displaying each portion of the diagram includes the step of displaying a scale indicating a size of the diagram as well as each of the portion of the diagram.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein a shade of color of a portion of the diagram is changed in correspondence to the magnification or reduction ratio of that portion.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein a pattern density of a portion of the diagram is changed in correspondence to the magnification or reduction ratio of that portion.

5. An apparatus for displaying magnified or reduced area, comprising:

means for storing diagram linkage information as to how other portions of a diagram are affected when a certain portion of a diagram is magnified or reduced;

means for magnifying or reducing the certain portion of the diagram with a designated magnification or reduction ratio;

means for magnifying or reducing the other portions of the diagram other than the magnified or reduced portion of

the diagram in accordance with the diagram linkage information;

means for obtaining the display specification information corresponding to the magnification or reduction ratio of each of the portions of the diagrams; and

means for displaying each portion of the diagram based on the display specification information characterizing to each portion magnification or reduction ratio so that the portions of the diagram are characterized differently depending on their magnification or reduction in the display.

6. The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the means for displaying each portion of the diagram includes the means for displaying a scale indicating the size of the diagram as well as each of the portions of the diagram.

7. The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein a shade of color of a portion of the diagram is changed in correspondence to its magnification or reduction ratio.

8. The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein a pattern density of a portion of a diagram is changed on correspondence to its magnification or reduction ratio.

9. A computer program on a computer-readable recording medium for displaying magnified or reduced areas of a diagram, wherein the program comprises:

software for diagram linkage information indicating how other portions of a diagram are affected when a certain portion of the diagram is magnified or reduced;

software for magnifying or reducing the certain portion of the diagram with a designated magnification or reduction ratio;

software for magnifying/reducing the portions of the diagram other than the magnified or reduced portion of the diagram in accordance with the diagram linkage information;

software for obtaining the display specification information characterizing the magnification or reduction ratio of each of the portions of the diagram; and

displaying each of the portions of the diagram in accordance with the display specification information characterizing each magnification or reduction ratio so that the portions of the diagram are characterized differently depending on their magnification or reduction ratio in the display.

10. The computer program according to claim 9, wherein the software for displaying each of the portions of the diagram includes software for displaying a scale indicating a size of the diagram as well as each of the portions of the diagram.

11. The computer program according to claim 9, including software for changing the shade of the color of a portion of the diagram to characterize its magnification or reduction ratio in the diagram.

12. The computer program according to claim 9, including software for changing the pattern density of a portion of the diagram characterize to its magnification or reduction ratio in the diagram.